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ner's picture is printed they scrutinize it and say, sometimes out loud, "Well, if she's a prize beauty there certainly is hope for me!"

Only one beauty contest that we ever heard of caused much trouble. In that case, when all three contestants tried to bribe the judge and he was weak enough to yield, the consequences were so exciting that a reporter named Homer wrote many columns about it. Mr. HERMICK might bolster up his case by reading the Hlad into the Congressional Record. Or he could send the sergeant-at-arms to Olympus with subpoenas for Paris, alias Alexander, the corrupt judge, and at least one of the contestants, Aphrodite preferred. Congress should have the facts about the golden apple contest from original sources.

One of the earlier of the many Maine girls who have achieved literary distinction while living the life of tranquillity domestically died on Monday in her eighty-seventh year. Born in Calais, HARRIET PRESCOTT was already at work at Newburyport contributing to the support of a paralyzed father by writing stories and poems for the less conspicuous periodicals at about the time when HANCOCK BECKER STOWE, in Brunswick, was producing the successive numbers of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" as a serial. It was just before the beginning of the civil war that Miss Prescott's name began to appear in the important magazines.

Mrs. SPORFORD's tales had imagination, a sense of the dramatic, and considerable power of expression; but her most daring flights, like that story in the collection called "The Amber Gods," which turns on a woman's struggle in the woods of the eastern wilds of Maine to conquer with music a fierce beast of the panther tribe known as the Indian Devil, do not produce now quite the same reaction that a former generation experienced in reading them. For instance:

"Suddenly she woke pierced with a pang, and the daggered tooth penetrating her flesh; dreaming of safety, she had ceased singing and lost it. The beast had regained the use of all his limbs, and now, standing and raising his back, bristling and foaming, with sounds that would have been like hisses but for their deep and fearful sonority, he withdrew step by step toward the trunk of the tree, still with his flaming balls upon her."

It might be that she was not greatly famished; for as she suddenly flung up her voice again he settled himself composedly on the bough, still clapping her with invincible pressure to his rough, ravenous breast, and listening in a fascination to the strange U-la-lu that now moaned forth in loud hollow tones above him. Death! and what a death! worse than any other that is to be named."

The death of HARRIET PRESCOTT SPORFORD recalls a period and a style that practically passed away with the Nineteenth Century. Verses of hers like "Magdalen" and "O Soft Spring Airs!" have survived in the anthologies and preserve the memory of a not too sophisticated sisterhood of poetry reflecting in New England the mid-Victorian spirit on the other side of the Atlantic.

A notable woman, a creditable career and an interesting reminder of what has been and no longer is.

Reports of newly discovered ocean currents and alleged changes in the course of the Gulf Stream come along each year as regularly as August follows July. As a rule there is in them a shade of truth as to fact and a bit of error as to the interpretation of the fact.

Director E. LESTER JONES of the Coast and Geodetic Survey recently announced the existence of wind drifts, probably new and certainly unusual, along the California coast. The discovery of these drifts is of the utmost importance to navigators along the Pacific coast, and as the accounts of them have spread temporary wind drifts have been magnified into "new ocean currents" that are "baffling phenomena" because of innocent misconception of the difference between wind drifts and ocean currents.

There is a broad distinction between a drift and an ocean current. The current has inertia of its own. Such an ocean current as the Gulf Stream, for instance, practically flows from a higher to a lower level with a velocity that is not possessed by a wind drift. Thus, off the Florida coast the Gulf Stream has a velocity of more than five miles an hour in the summer months. The water composing it differs in color, in temperature and in density from the ocean banks between which it flows. By the time it has reached as far, say, as the latitude of Cape Cod the stream has flowed to a gravity level and its inertia is lost.

Thereafter it is not much more than a wind drift. The "skin friction" between wind and water is the motive power of a drift, and westerly winds drag the surface water to every nook and cranny of the coast of Europe. Incidentally, the wind drift thus carried does not "modify the climate of western Europe," nor does it impart any measurable degree of warmth. Nevertheless, this mass of wind blown warm water has exerted a mighty influence on the civilization both of Europe and America; for inasmuch as it has kept the harbors of Europe free from ice during the long drawn winters of high latitudes, it has been an instrument for keeping open the world's greatest highway of commerce and intercommunication. Even at Hammefer, far within the Arctic Circle, rarely is the harbor ice locked.

A wind drift has no inertia of its own; it merely is a superficial mass of water dragged along by the wind; and when the wind ceases the drift of water soon comes to rest.

According to Director JONES's report, this is exactly what happened along the California coast. A wind blowing parallel to the coast swept a drift along in the same direction. But such a drift could not continue without the formation of counter drifts, and these also occurred—possibly leading to the wreck August 6 of the steamship Alaska, which seemed to have been carried out of her course by an unknown force.

Every few years, when southerly winds have prevailed along the Atlantic coast for several weeks, there come reports that "the course of the Gulf Stream has changed." Nevertheless, a slight swerving in season excepted, the Gulf Stream does not go out of its normal course, one hundred miles or more from the coast. Southerly winds, long continued, drag a superficial drift of water from the course of the stream and throw it against the coast. When this happens there follows a spell of sweltering weather in New York city and along the Jersey coast. But the Gulf Stream flows on in the usual course and position, except that for the time being it is carrying cold instead of warm water.

Newly formed drifts are common enough, and they come with every long continued unidirectional wind; newly formed currents, however, are not common, and it is doubtful if such a thing has occurred in the history of commerce. With airplanes and dirigibles at command there is no reason why dangerous wind drifts should not be forecast in the same manner as storms and unusual winds are forecast.

The discussion among Fusionists as to whether the principal target in the campaign should be HYLAN or MURPHY is academic and somewhat of a waste of time.

The intelligent voters of both parties in this city want to be rid of HYLAN. When they get him out and CURRAN in the Boss of Tammany Hall will be a negligible quantity so far as the city is concerned.

If the Democrats of New York want to oust Mr. MURPHY from a leadership which he has held stubbornly for twenty years they have their own means of going about it. Putting HYLAN out and CURRAN in will help some.

But so far as the Republicans, the Independents and, indeed, the citizens in general are concerned, JOHN F. HYLAN is the individual they are aiming at.

It is HYLAN who keeps Fourteenth Street fat and the city treasury lean by giving jobs to Boss MURPHY's district leaders and their followers.

It is HYLAN who signs letters drafted for him by HETTRICK.

It is HYLAN who displays a wretched ignorance of the finances of New York.

It is HYLAN whose lack of dignity has turned the Board of Estimate meetings into commotions which resemble a gathering of vexed hyenas.

The target of the voters is plain. There is only one arrow that will hit the mark. That is the Curran-Lockwood-Gilroy fusion ticket. Its nomination must be ratified next month at the Republican primary. The six hundred thousand men and women who are enrolled as Republicans are depended upon to provide the means of beating HYLAN.

The case is simple: CURRAN's nomination first, HYLAN's defeat second. That will dispose of MURPHY as well as he can be disposed of outside the machinery of his own party.

Eleven billion copies of daily newspapers are printed annually in the United States. How many more acres of pulpwood forests would be cut down if Babe Ruth's name was DIONYSIUS MACGILLICUDDY?

A rheumatic former soldier 62 years old rented a rifle for a shilling a day and won the King's Prize, the great British shooting contest. Where were the clear eye and steady hand of youth that the poets sing about?

The town marshal of Longwood, Florida, was requested by a band of masked and armed men dressed in white robes to resign his office because of his efforts to enforce automobile speed limits of the municipality.—The News from Orlando.

The incident should encourage Florida marshals to impartiality of administration. If such demonstrations continue it will be fair to read equality before the law as meaning that nobody shall be punished for crime.

If the Federal authorities keep at their recent pace in seizing ships for violating our laws the surplus shipping problem will soon be solved.

Calculation of the amount of space in a ship's hold required to stow all the whiskey found in potato patches, cellars, garages, fishermen's huts, cafes, hotels, captured automobiles and trucks, and alleged to have come from the good ship Pocomoos easily takes away from old Mayflower her long held record for stowage of furniture now the pride of thousands of homes and hundreds of museums.

The Reaper.

When silvery the new moon gleams,
A sickle in the azure deep,
It seems to come to me in dreams,
And reap for me the fields of sleep.

Then I have pansies purple eyed,
And radiant roses round me strewn,
And poppies rich and daisies pied,
Cut by the sickle of the moon.

And I have grain in golden sheaves,
While clover rubies near me lie;
What wonder that my spirit grieves
When the moon puts its sickle by!

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